

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 1, 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 16 and 19, claims 4, 8, 17, 18 and 20 to 39 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 to 16 and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 to 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,759,069 ("Kitatani et al."). While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 to 16 and 19 have been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, thereby rendering moot the present rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Kitatani et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,971,810 ("Taylor"). While Applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 6 has been canceled herein without prejudice or waiver, thereby rendering moot the present rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Allowed Claims 4, 8, 17, 18 and 20 to 39

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4, 8, 17, 18 and 20 to 39 are allowed.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 9/30/03

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